

ANDERSON-BROADDUS COLLEGE,
WHITESCARVER HALL

West side of U.S. Routes 119/250, .5 mile
north of Covered Bridge

Philippi
Barbour County
West Virginia

HABS No. WV-246-A

HABS,
WVA,
1-PHIL,
1-A-

PHOTOGRAPHS

WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDING SURVEY
MID-ATLANTIC REGION, NATIONAL PARK SERVICE
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
PHILADELPHIA, PENNSYLVANIA 19106

HABS
WVA,
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HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY

Alderson-Broadus College, Whitescarver Hall HABS NO. WV-246-A

Location: West Side of US Routes 119/250, .5 mile north of
Covered Bridge
Alderson-Broadus College
Philippi
Barbour County, West Virginia 26416

USGS Philippi Quadrangle, Universal Transverse
Mercator Coordinates 17.582903.4334757

Present Owner: Alderson Broadus College, Inc.

Present Use: Renovation from dormitory to open office for
Computer Related Data Processing

Significance: Exterior Classical Revival Architecture and Age
of Structure is Important to History of the
Community and the State.

The History of Whitescarver Hall

Whitescarver Hall is located on Circle Drive and commands the main entrance to the Alderson-Broadus College campus in Philippi, West Virginia. The 40 foot by 90 foot, three story classical brick structure faces southeast overlooking Philippi.

The block foundation is capped with a water table of rough cut native sandstone upon which there is a stretcher bonding of red pressed brick for ten courses with the fourth and eighth courses recessed. A rough cut native sandstone stringcourse surrounds the building at the base of the first floor. The rest of the exterior walls is made of white pressed brick with quoins on each corner running up to the third floor. The hipped roof is of red tile and features ridge tiles and hip knobs.

The front (southeast side) of Whitescarver Hall overlooks the town and features four classical pilasters, each capped at the third floor level with an Ionic capital. Directly above each of the capitals corbeling serves as a base for four small pilasters that decorate the third floor facing. These four pilasters are adorned with one roundel each and are capped by white wood dental work and two large and two small modillions each under the eaves. A course of vertical white brick corbeling at each of the front corners. Classical rectangular windows of six panes each are set in each side of the portico. Both have rough cut native sandstone sills and white brick freezeboards. White pressed brick ashlar is above each of the windows and the solid wood double doors. The portico is topped off with white brick dental work under the eaves. True to form, the roof of the portico is red ridge tile with hip knobs at each of the front corners. The window directly the portico features a small, white wood pediment with two brackets and red tile roofing.

The back (northwest side) of Whitescarver has a greatly simplified entrance flanked by classical pilasters capped with corbeling that support a rough cut native sandstone hood over the door. White brick dental work accentuates the pilaster capitals and the facing beneath the hood.

The steps leading to both the front and rear entrances are of native stone and are flanked by solid red brick walls with smooth cut native sandstone caps.

The fenestration on the rear of the building is slightly different from that of the front in that the center windows (above the door) on both the second and third floors are set lower than the other windows and are recessed with an ashlar between them. The one on the third floor is a six panel classical arched window. An outside entrance to the right of the chimney leads to a basement boiler room. The rest of the building has a vented crawlspace beneath it.

The chimney is located to the right of the rear entrance and rises from the foundation, through the eaves and above the small pediment on the roof. The chimney is of white pressed brick with a red brick base and a sandstone cap. The rear roof pediment is the smallest of the four and has a white wood vent, and a red tile roof with ridge tiles and a hip knob.

Originally, each end (northeast and southwest) of Whitescarver Hall had nine windows. In the 1946 renovation the center windows on each floor at each end were removed, the opening enlarged, and doors hung to accommodate exterior fire escapes. The center brick facing on each end is a six foot wide offset rising from the foundation to the eaves. The pediments at each end have white wood facings with lozenge windows, and red roof tile with ridge tiles and a single hip knob on each one. Each pediment is supported by two wooden brackets.

Rough cut native sandstone is used for the splayed lentils and keystones as well as the seals of the wooden, double sash windows, except for the third floor windows which have neither seals nor lentils. All of the third floor windows have freezeboards of white pressed brick.

Originally, the interior of the building featured a large lobby with exposed wooden ceiling beams, a fireplace, and a center Victorian staircase immediately above the lobby, there was a general purpose assembly room that would accommodate eighty people. Student rooms and teacher's suites were located on each floor, with the third floor used exclusively for housing.

The architectural firm for Whitescarver Hall was Holmboe and Lafferty of Clarksburg. The contract for the foundation was awarded, in July 1911, to Wirt Love of Cumberland, Maryland, and the cornerstone was laid by George M. Whitescarver on Thursday, August 17, 1911. The construction of the building was under the supervision of S.T.H. Holt of Philippi. Alex Zeck of Grafton received the plumbing contract. Before work began the Bell Telephone Company had to move several poles that were "exactly in the way" of construction. Built for \$175,000 the building included both gas and electric lighting and complete bath and shower facilities on each floor.

The two light poles, one at the west corner and one at the front entrance of Whitescarver, are 15 feet high (including the globe) and date from the early twentieth century (before 1925). The greater portion of each shaft is fluted. The lower portion (three feet) of each shaft is slightly bell shaped and is decorated with roundel and leaf engravings. At the top of each shaft is a leafed capital. The shafts are of cast iron and are set on concrete bases.

The decision to build the boy's dormitory was made at the annual meeting of the Broadbush Institute Board of Trustees held on Tuesday, June 13, 1911. The building was originally to be 50 feet by 110 feet, and was to accommodate 60 to 75 young men. The trustees voted to name the building "Whitescarver Hall" in honor of George M. Whitescarver of Grafton whose "large and liberal gift" made the building possible. On Thursday, August 17, 1911, Whitescarver laid the cornerstone at a spot by coincidence near the location of Union Colonel Ebenezer Dumont's headquarters during the June 1861 Battle of Philippi.

In the fall of 1912, twenty young men moved into the building, and the dedication and house warming ceremonies were held on Friday, December 13, 1912. Although in failing health "Uncle George" Whitescarver (as he was affectionately known to the Broadbush students) was the guest of honor at the festivities.

Whitescarver Hall was one of the three original academic buildings on the Alderson-Broadbush campus, and it is the oldest surviving one. Its Classical Revival architecture is an excellent example of early twentieth century architecture, and one of the few remaining buildings of this style in north central West Virginia. Between 1912 and the early 1950's it served Alderson-Broadbush College as its only resident hall for male students. Alderson-Broadbush is the only American Baptist college in West Virginia and serves the constituency of West Virginia, Virginia, Ohio, Maryland, Pennsylvania, and New Jersey, as well as other states and many foreign countries.

From the early 1950's until 1975 Whitescarver Hall served Alderson-Broadbush College as a student residence hall. Between 1975 and 1980 it was used for administrative offices until New Main was completed. Over the years it has facilitated outstanding young men and women who have gone on to achieve recognition in both the public and private sectors.

The 1946 and 1964 renovations almost totally reordered the interior of the building. The balustrades and railings of the Victorian staircase were removed. Today, the wooden ceiling beams and the fireplace in the lobby area are the only original interior features that remain. Fire escapes were added to both

the northeast and southwest ends of the building. In 1964 the southwest end of Whitescarver was joined with Paul Jones residence hall. This intrusion provided both dormitories with a common lobby.

George M. Whitescarver was born in Rappahannock County, Virginia, on December 18, 1831. He was the son of John and Elizabeth (Griffin) Whitescarver. His paternal grandmother was a cousin of President Zachary Taylor. He spent his younger years in his native county, attending both "the common and private schools." At the age of 15 he entered Rector College at Pruntytown, Taylor County, Virginia. He became a carpenter and was soon manager of the Baltimore & Ohio Railroad line between Grafton and Philippi. He was responsible for building the extension to Belington, some 12 miles south of Philippi. He also became involved in building the railroad between Morgantown and Kingwood.

By this time his enterpreneurships included a lumbering business at Valley Falls in Taylor County, and a vitrified brick business. In 1891, he, along with several other investors, purchased a large tract of land in Randolph County and founded the town of Pickens. Here they built several planing mills and a saw mill that had a capacity of ten million feet per year. His vitrified brick business prospered also, winning the premium award at the Chicago World's Fair in 1893. He also successfully invested in real estate and the coal industry.

In 1854 he married Henriette A. Sinclair of Taylor County. On the eve of the first land battle of the Civil War, Whitescarver, not yet 30 years old, joined Colonel George A. Porterfield's Confederate force at Philippi as a private. Meanwhile, his young wife reconnoitered the Union forces advancing through Grafton and reported to Porterfield that the Yankees were preparing to attack on the morning of June 3. Although her warning included the complete Federal plan of battle, it went unheeded.

Whitescarver was a stockholder and a member of the Board of Directors of the First National Banks in both Parkersburg and Grafton. A life-long Baptist, he served continuously as a member of the Board of Trustees of Broadbush Institute from its foundation in 1873 until his death on November 6, 1914.

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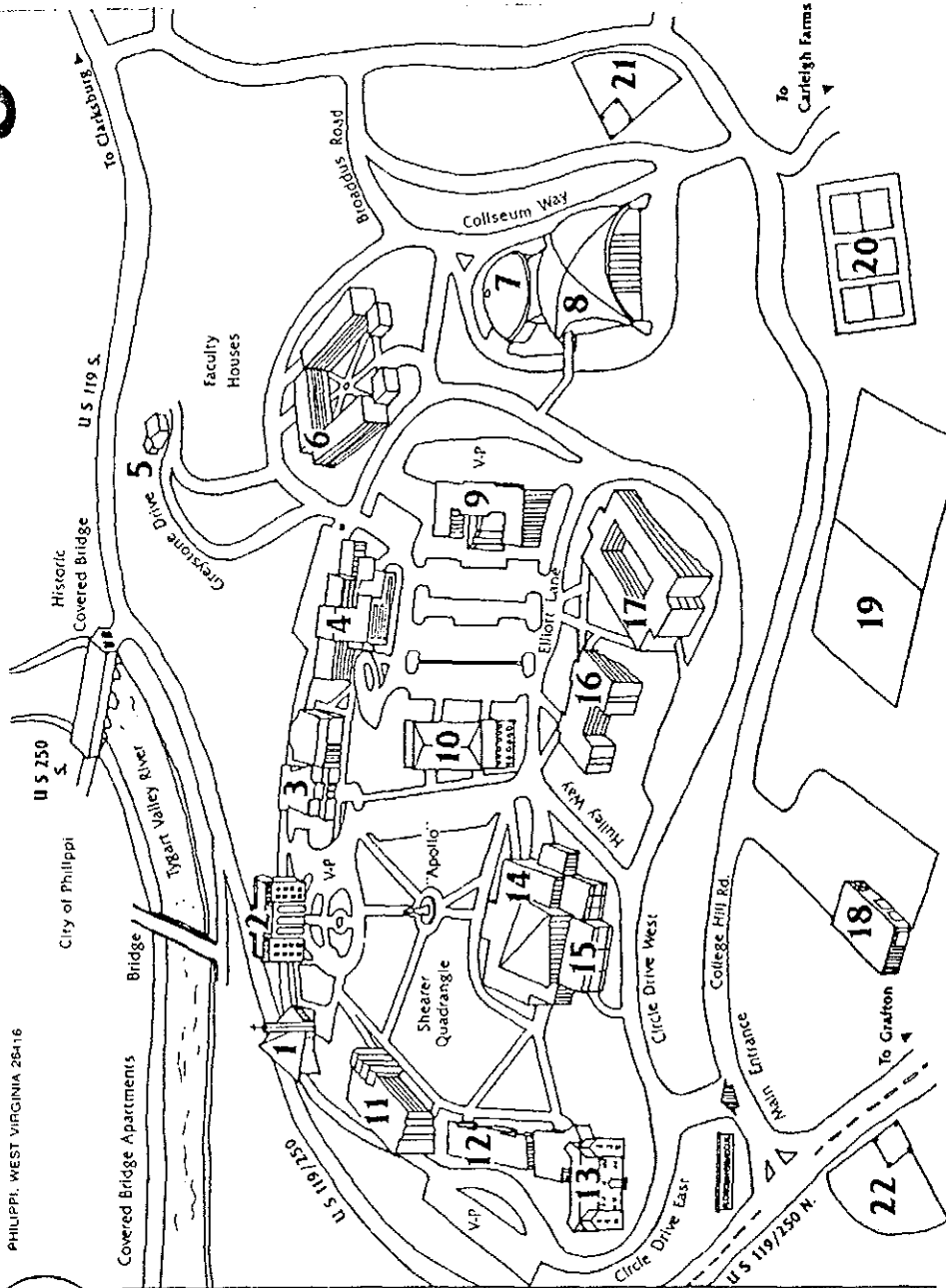
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Alderson-Broadus College

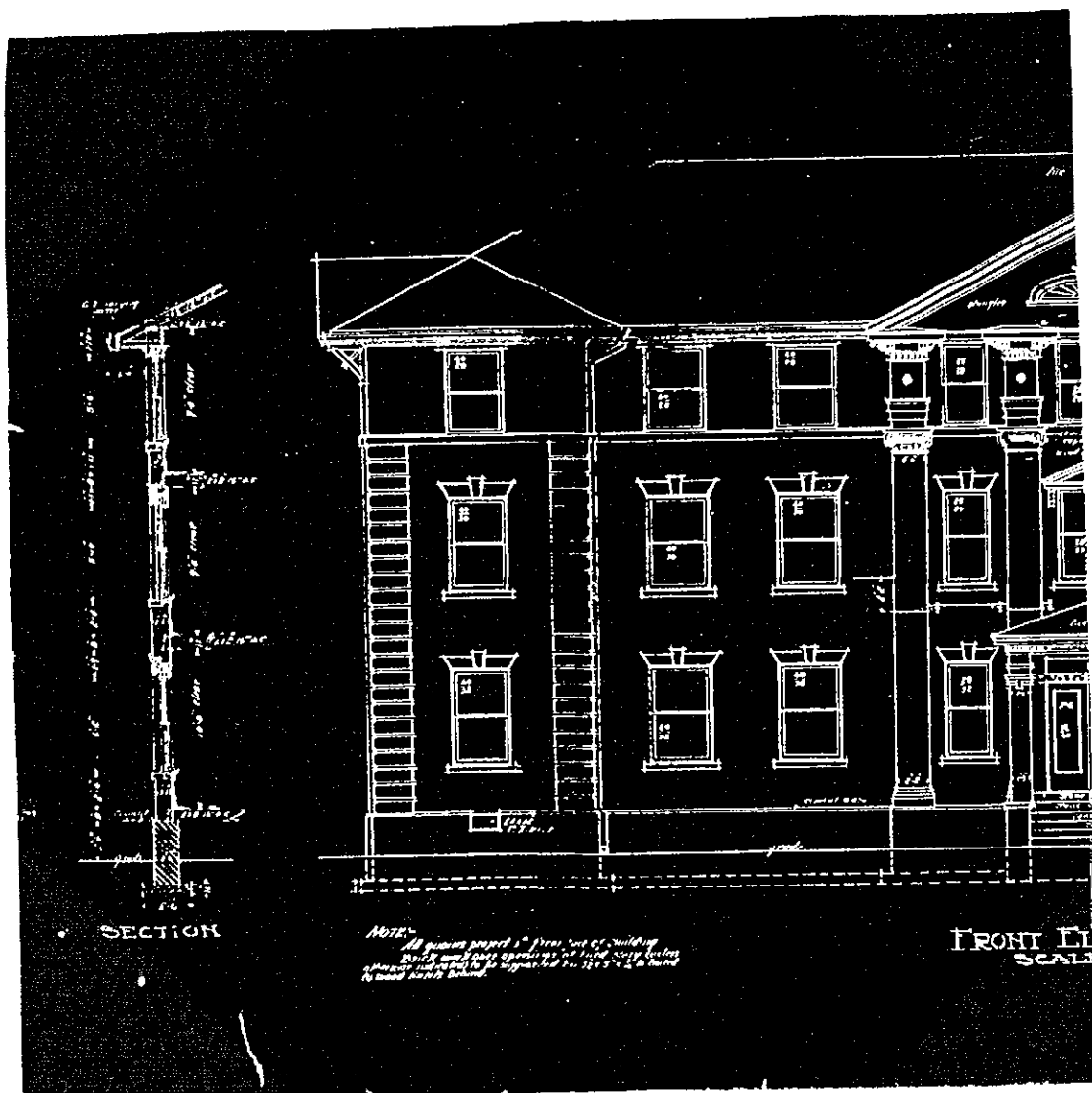
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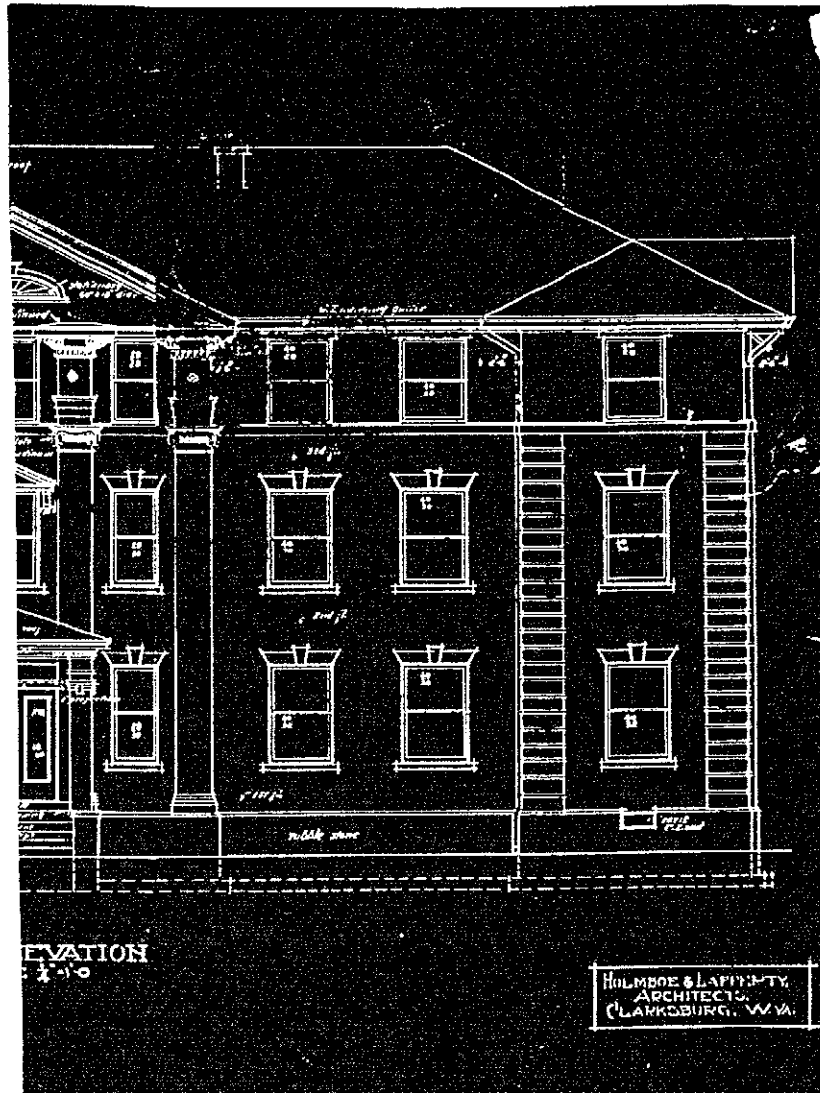


1. Wilcox Chapel
2. New Main Administration Building
3. John Woodford Lodge Hall
- Funkhouser Auditorium
- Pickett Library
- Media Center
4. Broadus Hospital
5. Greystone
- President's Residence
6. Men's Dorm - Scroth Hall
7. Swimming Pool
8. Coliseum - Rex Pyles Arena
9. Myers Hall - Health Sciences
10. Withers-Brandon Hall -
Social Sciences/Humanities
11. Kemper Hall-Natural Sciences
12. Paul Jones Hall - Dormitory
13. Whitescarver Hall
14. Heiner Hall - Dining
Crim Dining Room
15. Hamer Center - Student
Activities / Snack Bar
16. Benedum Hall -
Women's Dormitory
17. Priestley Hall -
Women's Dormitory
18. Maintenance Building
19. Soccer Field
20. Tennis Courts
21. Softball
22. Baseball
- VP Visitors Parking 1987

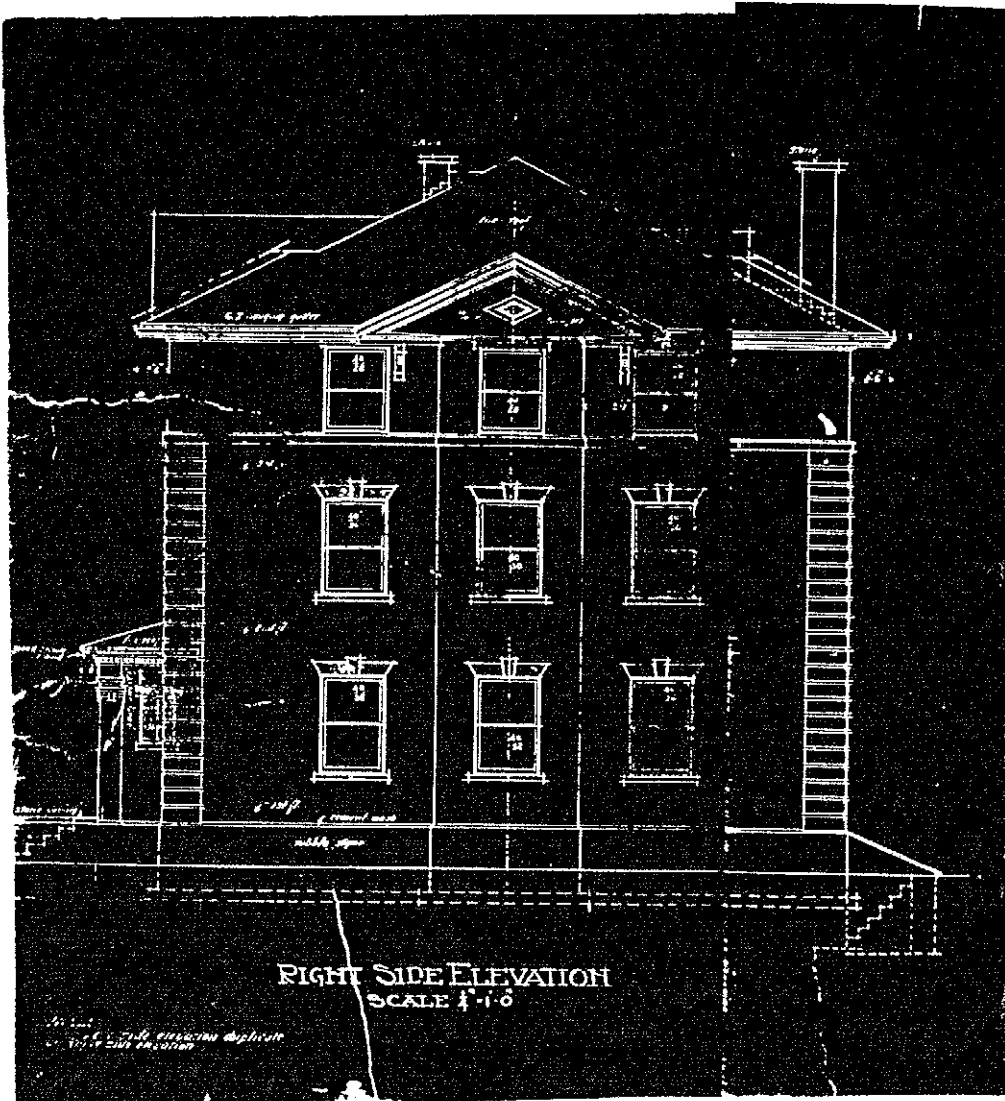
Front Elevation - Left Side



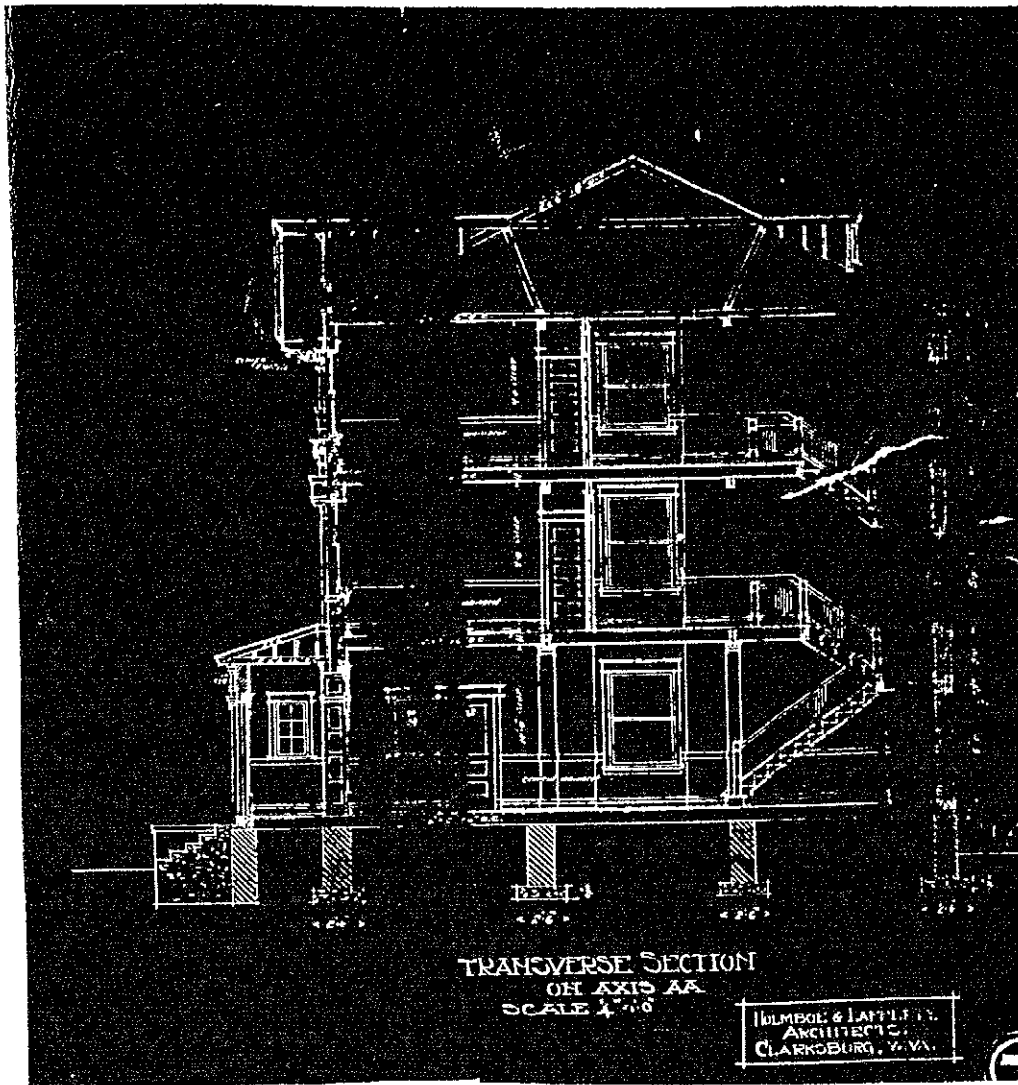
Front Elevation - Right Side



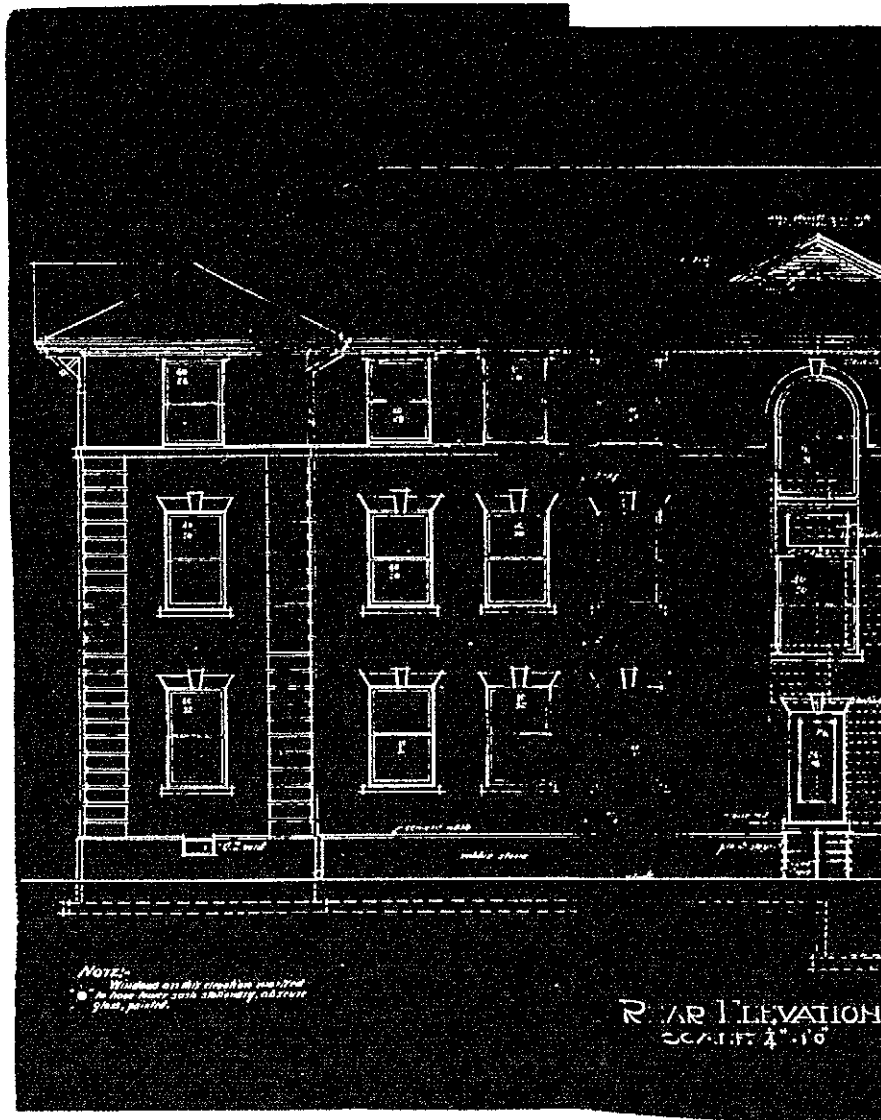
Right Side Elevation



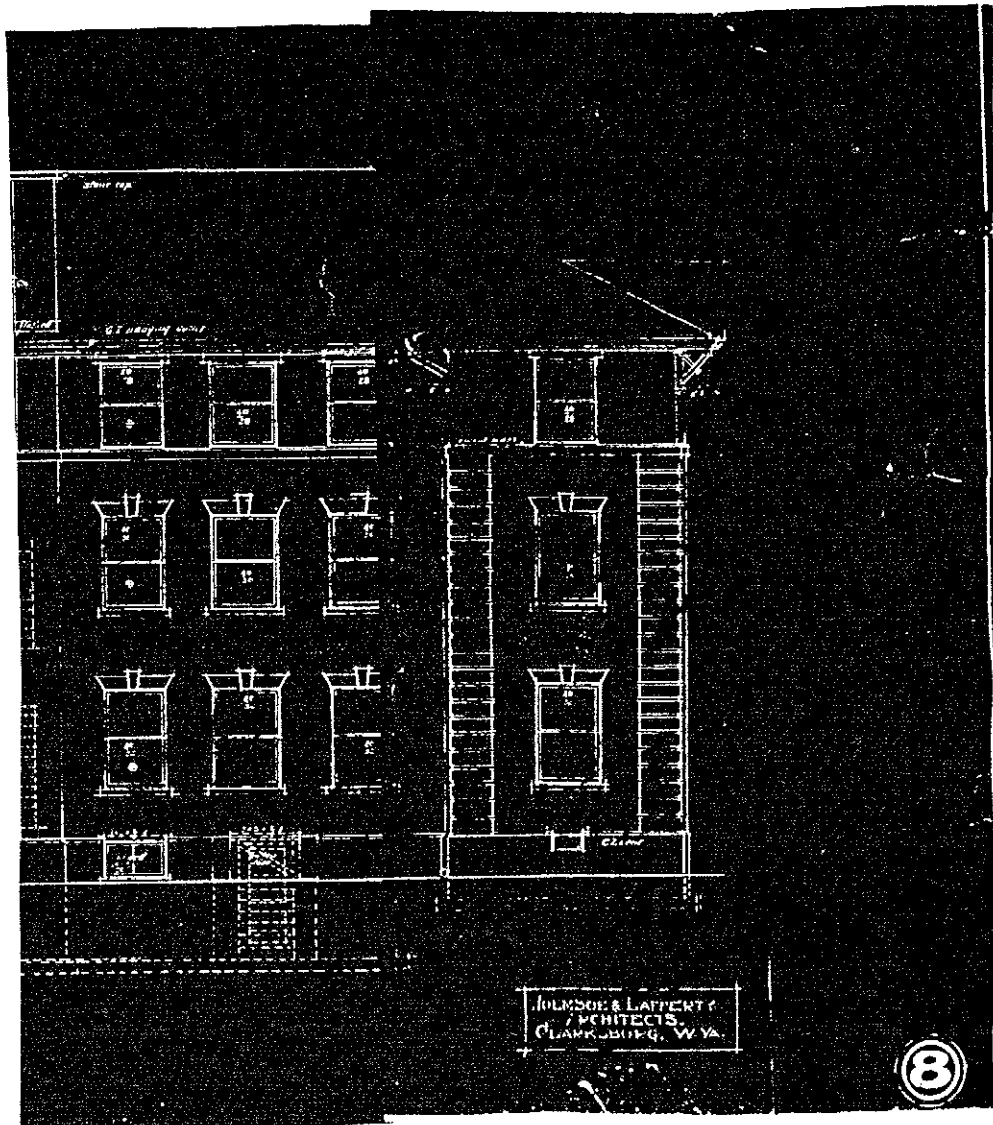
Right Side Elevation Transverse Section



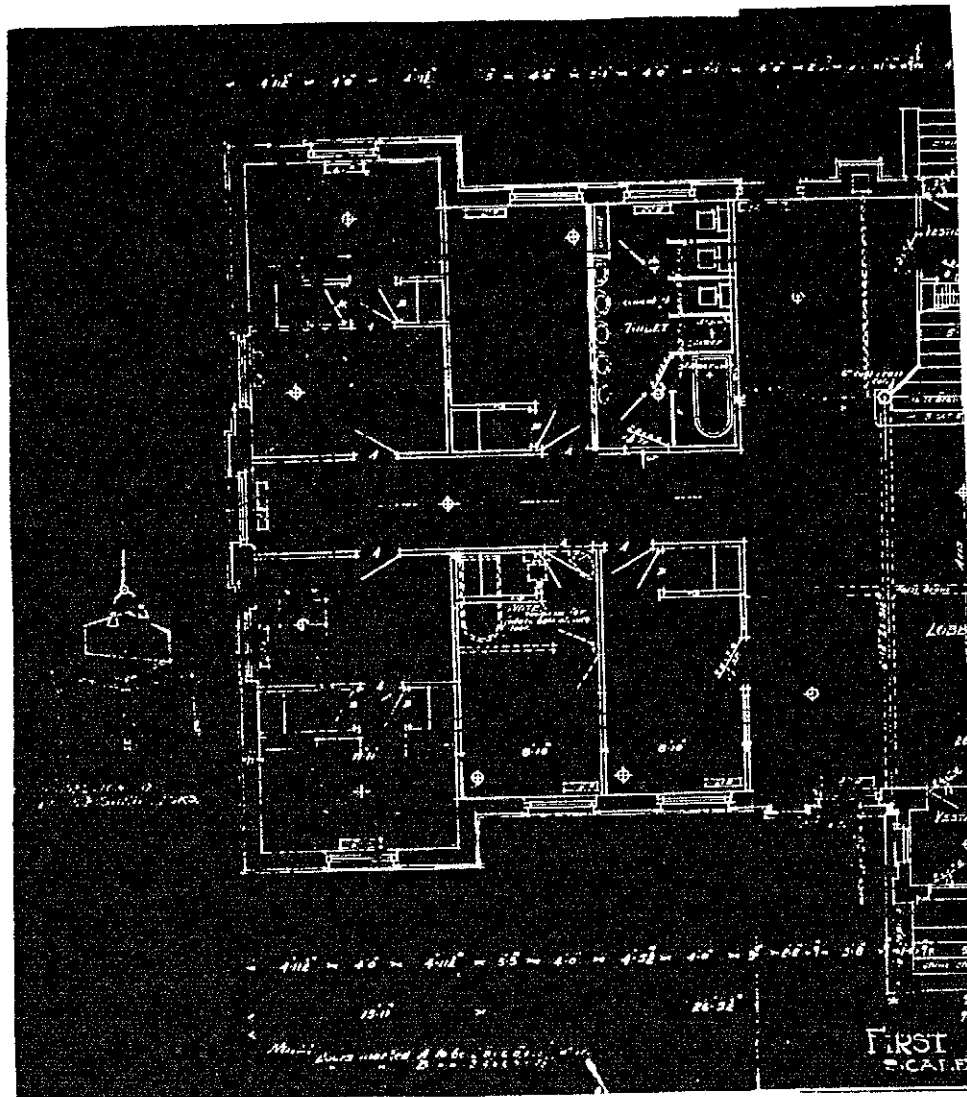
Rear Elevation Left Side



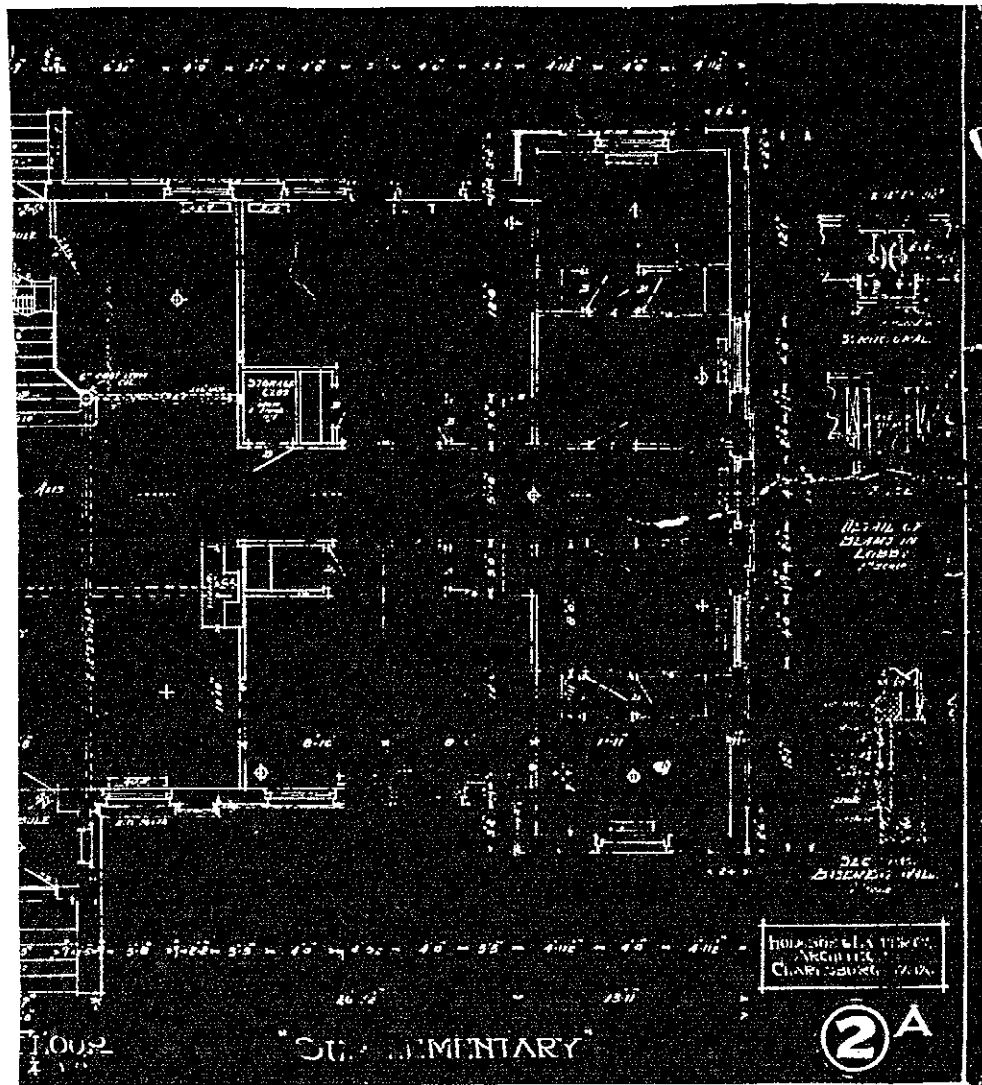
Rear Elevation Right Side



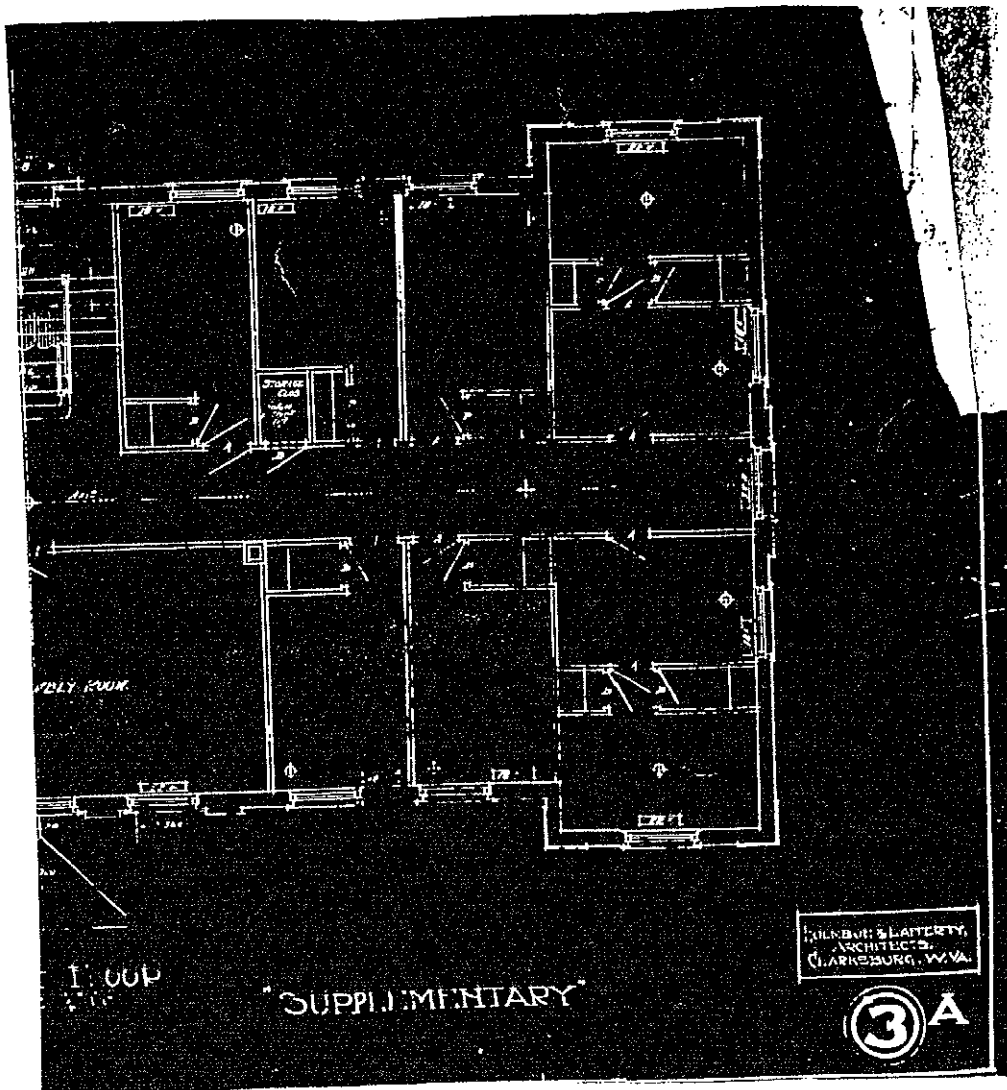
First Floor Left Side



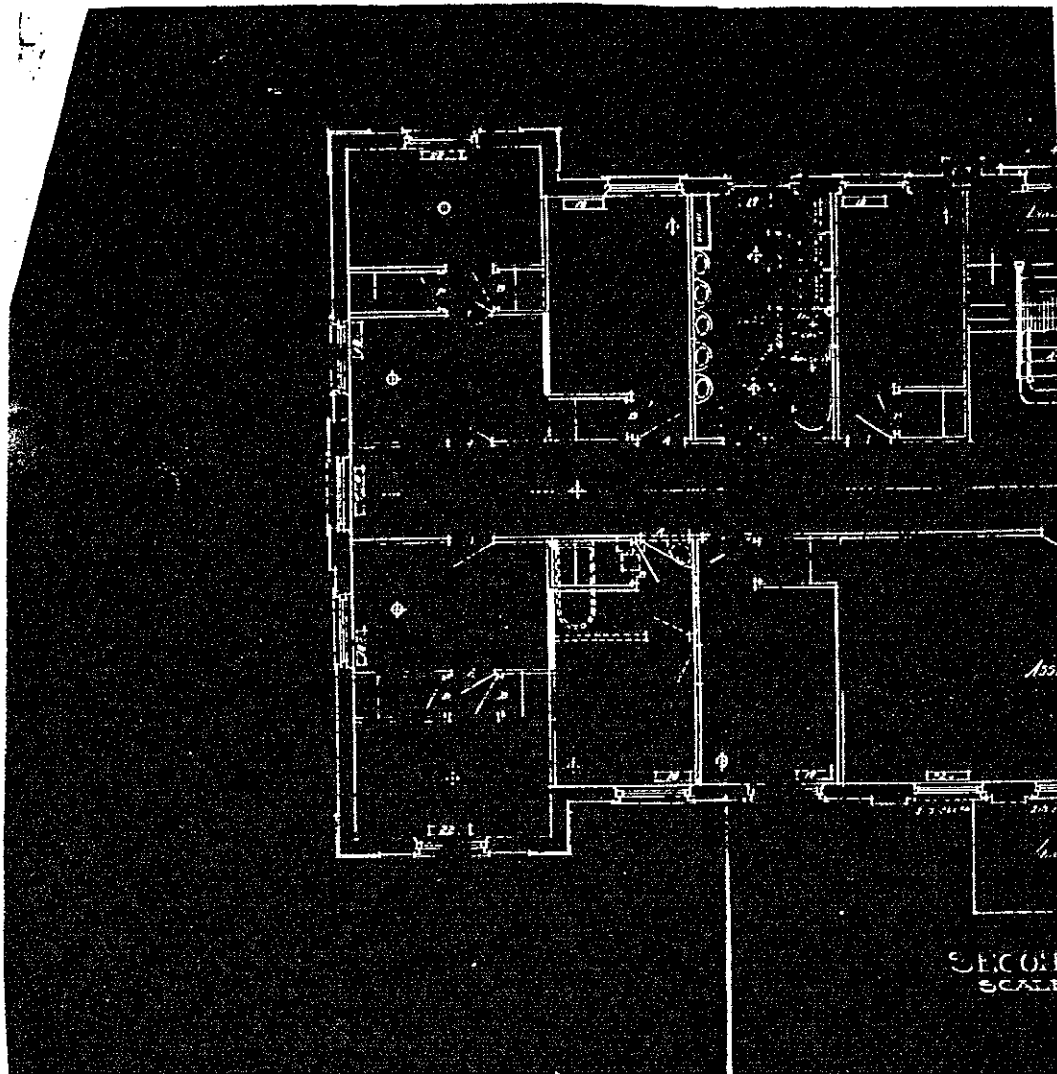
First Floor Right Side



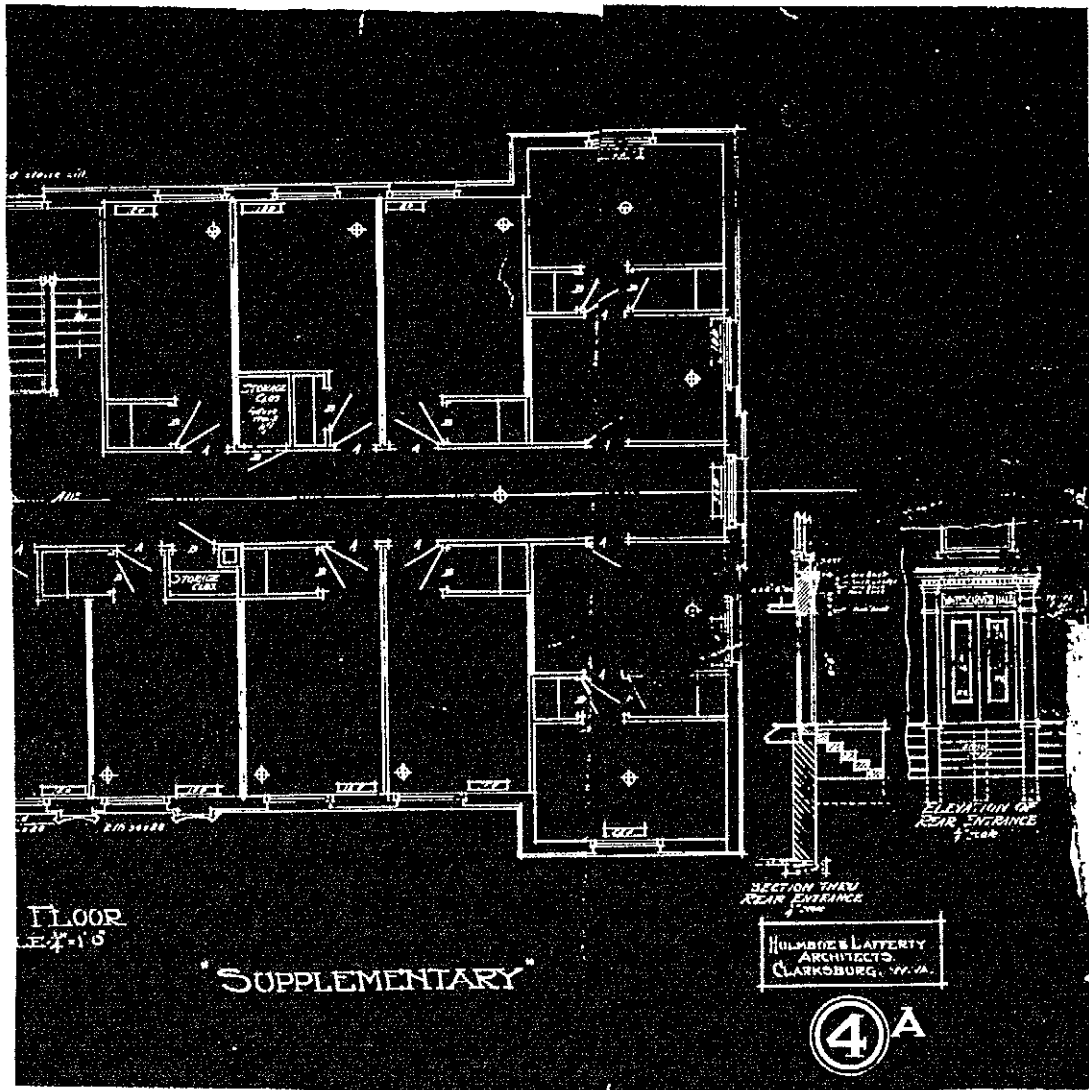
Second Floor Right Side



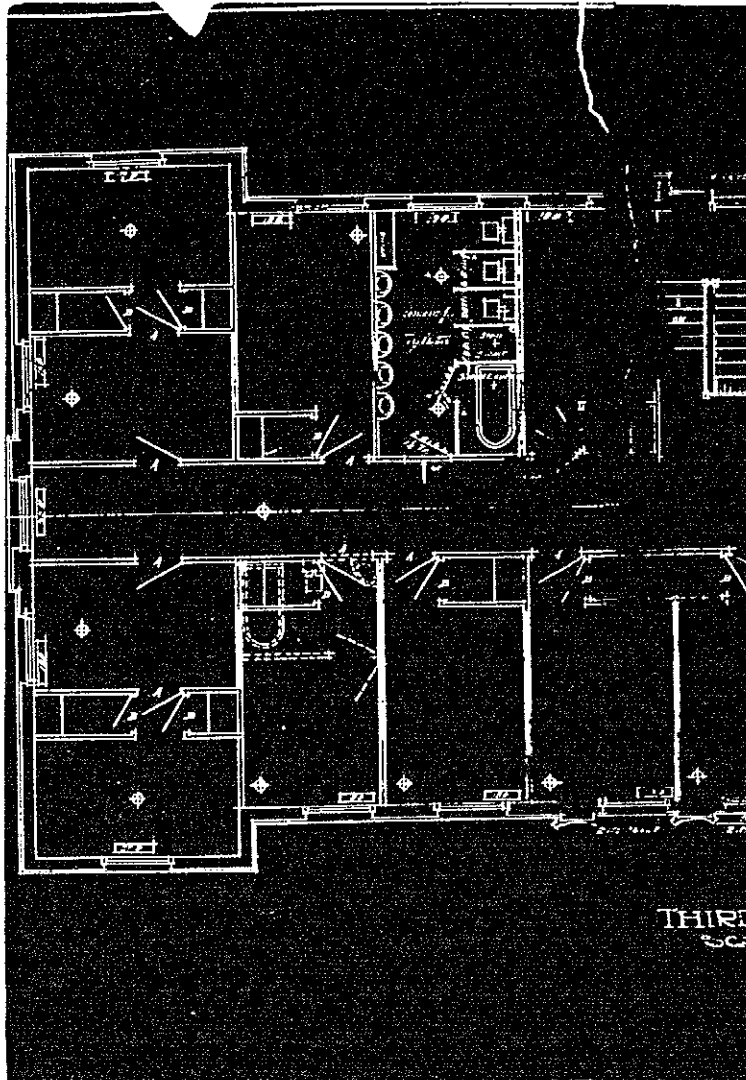
Second Floor Left Side



Third Floor Right Side

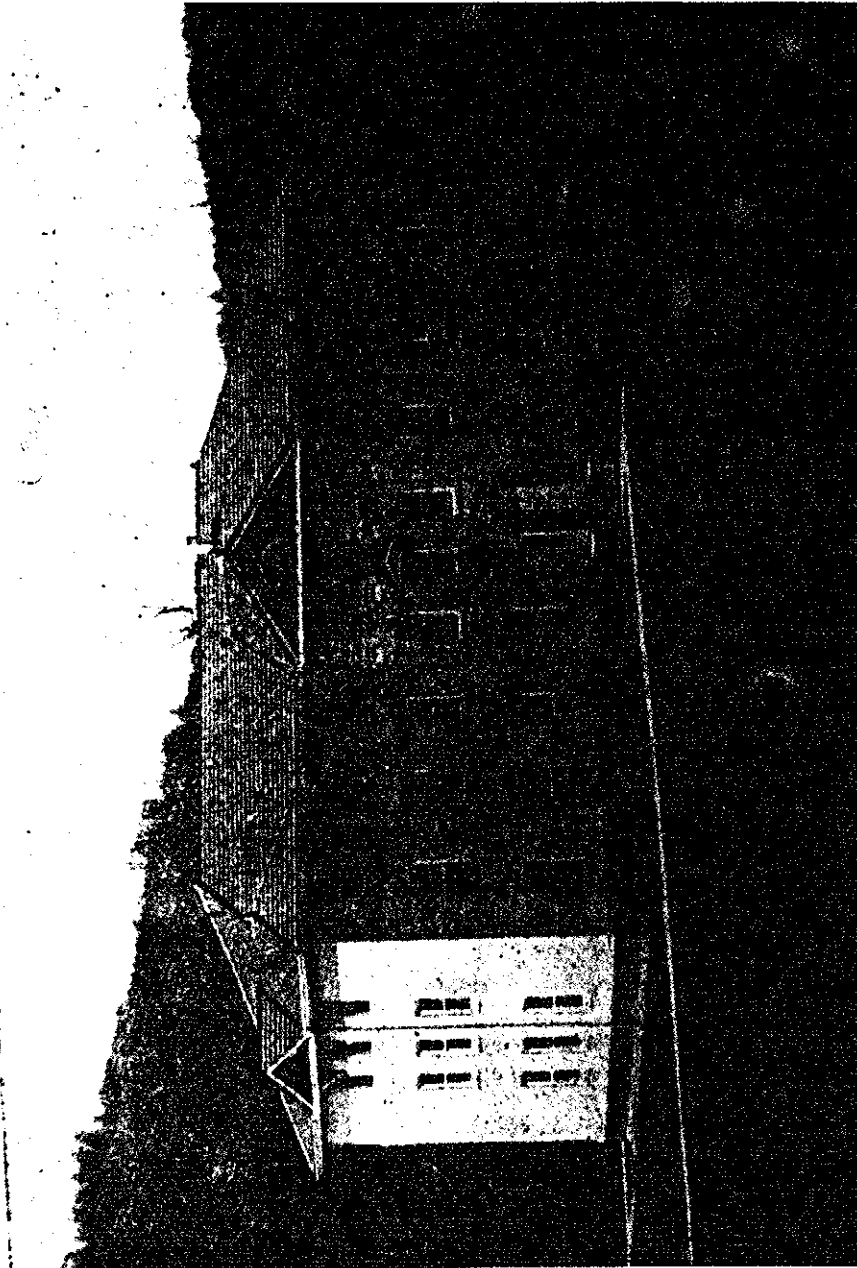


Third Floor Left Side



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Whitescarver Hall Facing North



Whitescarver Hall Main Lobby

